REMARKS

I.   Interview held with Examiner on July 17

For the reasons set forth in the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Syed et al, hereinafter "Syed"(US Patent No. 2005/0035848 A1).

In the telephone interview with the Examiner, the Applicant referred to the obviousness rejections and, in particular, to the obviousness rejection to claim 6. The Applicant stated that the rejections were improper because, contrary to the Examiner's assertion in the Final and non-Final Office Actions that Syed discloses latch operational and functionality feedback information is communicated to the latch in response to user input provided to the graphical user interface (GUI) 230, Syed actually clearly discloses the graphical user interface 230 as being provided for indicating the current state of activity of the ETL to the subscriber and nothing more so that the user at the GUI 203 cannot debug the ETL via the GUI (see paras. [0058]-[0061] of Syed). The Applicant further stated that Syed discourages one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system to provide the latch diagnostic system of claim 6 of the application because Syed is directed to applications in which it is undesirably for a user, such as a potential buyer standing outside the property (see last sentence of Abstract), to take control of the ETL via the GUI 230 and therefore the person of ordinary skill would not be motivated to modify the GUI to enable the user to diagnose the latch and furthermore actually debug the ETL through the GUI. The Applicant suggested making a further amendment to the current claims of the application to limit them to debugging operations of the latch.

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In reply, the Examiner acknowledged that Syed does not disclose or teach the diagnostic system of claim 6 or the other claims of the application, as examined, and that the final action would be withdrawn even without further amendment.

II.   Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended the claims so as to further clarify that they are directed to debugging of the latch through the graphical user interface. Essentially, the independent claims 1, 6, 13, have been amended to limit diagnostic data to latch internal electrical functionality and status data, to reflect that user interactive features are graphically displayed for permitting a user to diagnose and debug the latch and that a latch debugging operation is initiated through the graphical user interface in response to a user input provided to the graphical user interface. Consequential amendments have been made to the dependent claims. Claim 21 is now redundant and has been deleted. Additional amendments have been made to the dependent claims which are believed to be self-explanatory.

The Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments further clarify that the claimed system and methods are directed to debugging the latch using internal electrical functionality and status data and yet further distinguish the claimed system and methods from the disclosure of Syed.
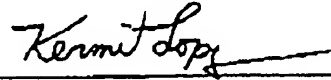
III.   Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully accepts the Examiner's offer to withdraw the Final Action.

The foregoing discussion and amendments do not present new issues for consideration and no new search is necessitated. Such amendments are supported by the specification and do not constitute new matter.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 27, 2006

Kermit Lopez
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,953
Tel. (505) 314-1312
Fax. (505) 314-1307
ORTIZ & LOPEZ, PLLC
P.O. Box 4484
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4484